Ehmale
03-29-04

RCE/2800

Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal	
Application Number	09/904,163
Filing Date	July 11, 2001
First Named Inventor	Edwin FONTECHA
Art Unit	2874
Examiner Name	M. Connelly-Cushwa
Attorney Docket No.	373722001822

Address to:
MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

   a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

      i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

      ii. ☐ Other _____

   b. ☒ Enclosed

      i. ☒ Amendment/Reply (9 pages)   iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

      ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)   iv. ☒ Other Fee Transmittal (original + 1 copy for fee processing (2 pages total)), Petition for Extension of Time (1 page), Return Receipt Postcard

2. **Miscellaneous**

   a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

   b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

   a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____03-1952_____

      i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

      ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

      iii. ☐ Other _____

   b. ☐ Check in the amount of $ _____ enclosed

   c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Christopher B. Eide	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	48,375
Signature		Date	March 25, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV336624332US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: **3/25/04**   Signature: _Tia Zimmerman_   (Tia B. Zimmerman)

pa-872344

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Edwin FONTECHA and Mohammad Z. KHAN

Application No.: 09/904,163

Art Unit: 2874

Filed: July 11, 2001

Examiner: M. Connelly-Cushwa

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD TO
VERTICALLY ROUTE AND CONNECT
MULTIPLE OPTICAL FIBERS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.114

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Request for Continued Examination and Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated September 25, 2003 (Paper No. 0903), for which a response was due on December 25, 2003. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3 month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to March 25, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

PA-828186